

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Previously Presented) An image reading method, comprising the steps of:

reading photoelectrically an original image with an image sensor by separating it into three primary colors; and

converting image signals of the three primary colors outputted from the image sensor into digital signals,

wherein a light quantity of light which is incident on said image sensor is balanced among colors in accordance with an original type by adjusting said light quantity of light which is issued from a light source and incident on an original in accordance with the original type.
2. (Previously Presented) The image reading method according to claim 1, wherein balancing said light quantity among colors is formed by changing an optical balance in an optical system from the light source to the image sensor including the original.
3. (Original) The image reading method according to claim 1, wherein said original type includes at least a color negative film and a color reversal film.

4. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus comprising:

an image sensor which separates into three primary colors light bearing an image of an original and photoelectrically reads said light;

original type acquiring means for detecting or setting an original type of said original; and

light quantity balance adjusting means for catching among colors a balance of light quantity of said light that is incident on said image sensor in accordance with the original type obtained by said original type acquiring means by adjusting light quantity of light which is issued from a light source and incident on an original in accordance with the original type, said light quantity balance adjusting means being provided between said light source and said original in accordance with the original type.

5. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means changes an optical balance in an optical system from the light source to the image sensor including said original.

6. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means changes an optical balance in an optical system from the light source to the image sensor including said original and decreases color mixing in the three primary colors.

7. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means includes an optical filter.

8. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said original type includes at least a color negative film and a color reversal film.

9. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means will not operate in a reference type of the original.

10. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

spectral sensitivity changing means for changing a spectral sensitivity distribution of said light in accordance with the original type after the balance of the light quantity is adjusted among colors, as well as said respective means.

11. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said spectral sensitivity changing means is peak value changing means of said spectral sensitivity distribution in accordance with the original type.

12. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said peak value changing means of said spectral sensitivity distribution changes a peak value of the spectral sensitivity distribution in an optical system from the light source to the image sensor including said original.

13. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means and said peak value changing means of said spectral sensitivity distribution are integrated into a single optical unit.

14. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said peak value changing means of said spectral sensitivity distribution will not operate in a reference type of the original.

15. (Currently Amended) The image reading ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 1, wherein said light quantity of light which is incident on said image sensor is balanced with every color in accordance with the original type.

16. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means catches with every color the balance of the light quantity of said light that is incident on said image sensor in accordance with the original type.

17. (Previously Presented) An image reading method, comprising the steps of:
reading photoelectrically an original image with an image sensor by separating it into three primary colors;
converting image signals of the three primary colors outputted from the image sensor into digital signals;
emitting a quantity of light from a light source through a light quantity adjusting device to an original; and
balancing said quantity of light which is incident on said image sensor among colors by adjusting said quantity of light which is issued from the light source and incident on the original with said light quantity adjusting device in accordance with a type of the original.

18. (New) The image reading method according to claim 1, wherein said light quantity of light which is incident on said image sensor is balanced with every color among said three primary colors so as to reduce differences of original types.

19. (New) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said light quantity balance adjusting means catches said balance of said light quantity of light that is incident on said image sensor with every color among said three primary colors so as to reduce differences of original types.

20. (New) The image reading method according to claim 17, wherein said light quantity of light which is incident on said image sensor is balanced by said light quantity adjusting device with every color among said three primary colors so as to reduce differences of types of originals.